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Legislature approves consumer protection for prepaid funerals

Lansing – After receiving overwhelming support in both the House and Senate, legislation to protect consumers' prepaid funeral arrangements now goes to the governor for her signature, Sen. Laura Toy, R-Livonia, announced.

“Uneven regulations for funeral homes and cemeteries have made it possible for unscrupulous sellers to take advantage of consumers for more than 20 years,” Toy said. “This legislation sends a powerful message to those sellers who have preyed on the vulnerability of their customers for far too long.”

The legislation requires all sellers of prepaid funeral goods and services to place 100 percent of a consumer's money in a secure escrow account to ensure the money is available to pay for goods and services at a later date or provide a full refund, if necessary. The legislation also ensures that purchasers of cemetery goods and services can receive a full refund.

“Facing the death of a loved one is painful enough,” Toy said. “No family should have to deal with the added anguish of learning they were victims of a prepaid funeral scam.”

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